

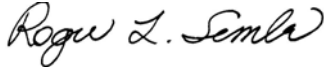
# 2005 SMITH RIVER ANNUAL REPORT



***A comprehensive summary of management activities, visitor use statistics, social and resource conditions on the Smith River corridor during the 2005 field season***

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## **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

The Smith River program of Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks manages recreational floating along a 59-mile segment of the Smith River from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge. The Smith River is the only river in Montana where a permit is required for both public and commercial use. Management of the river corridor is conducted through an interagency partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the United State Forest Service (USFS). Approximately 80% of the land along the river corridor is in private ownership, with the other 20% publicly owned.

The Smith River float is extremely popular during a short season with an average of 3,700 people floating the river per year. The Smith River is unique in that it has only one public put-in and one public take-out for the entire 59-mile segment of river. The river is noted for its spectacular scenery and blue-ribbon trout fishery.

This report is compiled from data gathered during the 2005 float season (April through October 2005) for the Smith River program. Statistical and observational information was gathered from recreational floaters and state park staff.

## **SECTION 2 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A total of 3,884 private launch applications were received for the 2005 float season, a 1.2% increase from the applications received in 2004. A total of 526 private groups floated the Smith River involving a total of 3,197 individual floaters, as compared to the 13-year average of private use of 522 groups, with 3,077 people.

The 11 authorized commercial outfitters conducted a total of 48 trips involving 573 floaters (including both client and guides), as compared to the 13-year average of outfitted use of 49 groups per year with 558 people.

Of particular importance is the fact that Smith River Management Plan standards for the number of groups in the canyon at one time, number of floaters in the canyon at one time, and average group size were in compliance during the 2005 float season.

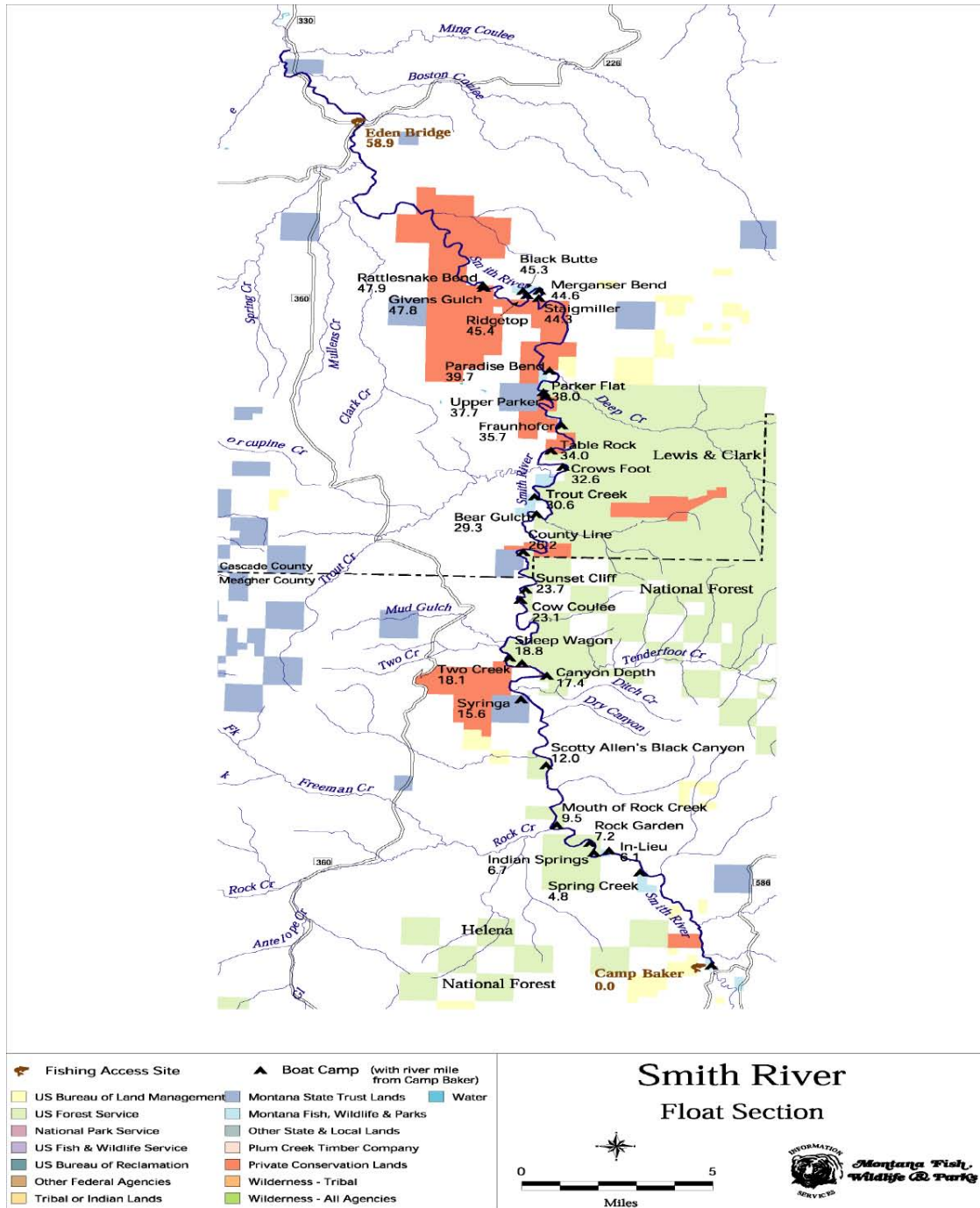
The 2005 float season on the Smith River was marked as slightly above overall historical averages and well above the 1999 – 2004 average. By mid-April, snow pack in the Smith River basin was approximately 90% of normal. A cool and rainy June peaked the river flows to 1650 cfs and kept flows steady through the months of June through mid-July. In addition, releases from Lake Sutherland reservoir maintained flows above 100 cfs throughout the remainder of the float season. A new record was set for the month of April, with a total of 405 floaters, up from 314 floaters in 2004.

The 2005 public safety record on the Smith River was excellent, with no serious accidents or injuries reported. A complete summary of incidents reported on the river is provided on pages 38-40.

Based on the visitor floater log feedback, visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of the recreational resources and management of the river corridor continued to be very positive. There are strong indications that the Smith River continues to offer one of Montana's premier recreational opportunities.



## SECTION 3 – SMITH RIVER AREA MAP



## **SECTION 4 - MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Administration**

The Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, administers the Smith River program based in Region 4 Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Cooperative management support is also provided by the U.S. Forest Service out of the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts of the Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Administrative duties in the FWP office include planning and preparation for the coming season, updating printed and website information, purchasing supplies, hiring employees, meeting with the USFS and commercial guide/outfitters, and preparing for the lottery drawing for the private Smith River float permits. The majority of the office time spent throughout the float season involves answering public inquiries via the telephone.

Duties in the field include routine maintenance of the recreational facilities along the river corridor from Camp Baker (put-in) to Eden Bridge (take-out), including the 52 boat camps along the river. Visitor outreach and education, with an emphasis on public safety, resource protection and Leave No Trace ethics are also typical duties. River Rangers conduct weekly float patrols on the Smith River throughout the float season.

The Smith River rangers spend several hours each day at Camp Baker answering questions, conducting pre-launch informative talks, registering floaters, collecting floater fees and recording daily use statistics, which are used to track recreational float use trends on the river.

### **Staffing**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks employees involved with the 2005 Smith River program included:

- Colin Maas – Smith River State Park Operations Specialist
- Will Dubielczyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Kirk Perszyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Carla Corbally – Seasonal Smith River Reservation System
- Roger Semler – Region 4 Parks Manager

Numerous other FWP employees from R-4 and Helena Headquarters office played a role in a team effort to make the Smith River program work successfully.

On February 22, 2005, Colin Maas was hired and began duty as the new Smith River State Park Manager.

Kirk Perszyk successfully completed a 40-hour Ex-Officio Warden training program during the 2005 float season.

## **2005 Budget**

The fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005) operational budget for the Smith River program was \$90,082. This budget was funded by the following four sources:

- Parks-earned revenue (floater fees collected)
- General license dollars
- Coal severance tax
- US Forest Service Challenge Cost Share agreement

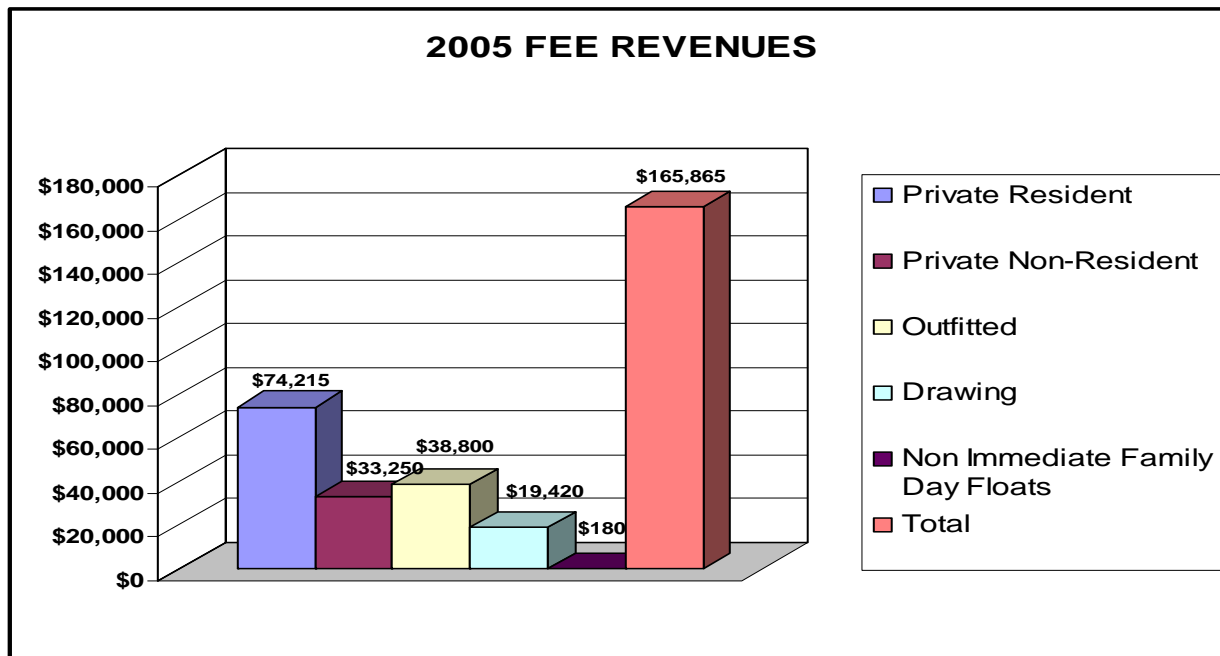
The US Forest Service Challenge Cost Share agreement was renewed for the eleventh year with the Lewis & Clark National Forest. The agreement provided \$7,500 to FWP for maintenance and operations of the USFS boat camps along the Smith River.

## **Fee Revenue**

The following floater fees were approved for the 2004-05 season (April 01 – October 31) through the Parks Biennial Fee Rule:

- Permit drawing fee (residents and non-residents, non refundable) = **\$5.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (resident application) = **\$25.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (non-resident application) = **\$50.00**
- Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+, Outfitter Staff (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$25.00**
- Non-Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+ (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$50.00**
- Children Ages 6-12 (Resident or Non-resident) (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$15.00**
- Landowner Non Immediate Family = **\$7.50**
- Outfitted Client Floater = **\$100.00**
- Outfitted Pre Launch Fee = **\$200.00**

Total fee revenue collected from the Smith River program in 2005 was \$165,865.



**GRAPH 1: TOTAL FEES COLLECTED FOR 2005 SMITH RIVER PROGRAM**

### **Corridor Enhancement Account**

The Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) was established by the FWP Commission to “better manage and protect the river corridor.” Fifty dollars from each outfitted client fee and 5% of all other fees collected are put into the CEA. The CEA can be used only for the Smith River Corridor, including the purchase of lands and easements. As of July 01, 2005, the balance of the CEA was \$256,524.

### **Administrative Floats**

A total of 12 administrative river patrol floats were conducted during the 2005 season for the purpose of managing the Smith River. The primary focus of these trips was visitor education and outreach, boat camp maintenance, resource protection, law enforcement, landowner contacts, noxious weed control and public safety.

During routine river patrols, rangers visited with numerous recreational floaters and landowners throughout the 59-mile river corridor. Campsites were checked for litter and resource damage, signs were repaired or replaced, fire grates were cleaned out, and pit latrines were dug and maintained. Litter was packed out including metal and glass thrown into the fire rings, along with partially burned garbage. Private property was checked for signage, trespass and other impacts.

Field personnel continue to provide an important means for FWP and USFS to observe and address visitor use and resource protection concerns and issues.

### **Volunteer Activity**

In 2005, 22 citizen volunteers contributed approximately 3,443 hours (equivalent to 1.7 FTE) to the Smith River program. Volunteer hosts at the Eden Bridge take-out provided



important maintenance and visitor services for floaters, as well as collecting post-trip floater logs. Volunteers also assisted with vehicle shuttles for FWP personnel conducting various administrative river patrols. Eden Bridge volunteers collected and separated approximately 400 pounds of aluminum cans for recycling, which were donated to a non-profit organization.

Volunteers add immeasurably to the Smith River program. For example, vandalism was greatly reduced at the Eden Bridge take-out when a volunteer host was present. The interaction between volunteers and FWP staff helps gain insight on public opinion. Volunteers help improve the Smith River program over the long term.

### **Education and Outreach**

The river rangers continued to conduct pre-float orientation talks at the Camp Baker put-in to educate and inform floaters about river safety, as well as the rules and regulations for floating the Smith River. Noxious weed control is also discussed in an effort to make the public aware of the problems with noxious weed infestations. Rangers emphasized Leave No Trace ethics and their importance to minimizing social and resource impacts in the river corridor.

FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor. The Smith River Habitat Project hired two college interns who worked out of Camp Baker during the 2005 season.

Their main objective was to provide more detailed information and education concerning noxious weeds in the corridor, and more importantly, asked floaters to document the type and location of any new “invader” species not yet documented within the corridor.

The Smith River website and mail-out floater information packet were updated and improved to address frequently asked questions, special resource protection concerns, and recommendations to reduce group size to help FWP comply with the Smith River Management Plan standards.

### **Projects Completed**

The following projects were accomplished in 2005:

- In April, the annual spring work float was conducted with FWP and USFS employees. Eighteen pit latrines were dug, several signs repaired and several tie-up posts installed. Pre-installation of a dehydrating toilet was completed at Crowsfoot Boatcamp.



**Pre-float orientation talk.**

- A new informational Kiosk was installed at Camp Baker. The panels will be completed in the Spring of 2006.
- Several hazard trees and snags were cut out and/or removed from the river.
- A five-day noxious weed control trip was conducted, during which weeds were chemically treated on public property along the Smith River.
- Final installation of the dehydrating toilet was completed at Crows Foot Boat Camp. This experimental method of human waste disposal was fully operational beginning in mid May.



**TYPICAL SMITH RIVER BOAT CAMP**

### **Management Actions**

The Smith River program implemented the following management actions and recommendations in 2005:

- FWP continued the implementation of a 2004 policy for permit cancellations during the May 25<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup> peak-use period to address the average group size indicator exceeding the established Management Plan standard. All launch permits voluntarily canceled and reallocated were limited to a maximum group size of eight individuals during this high use period.

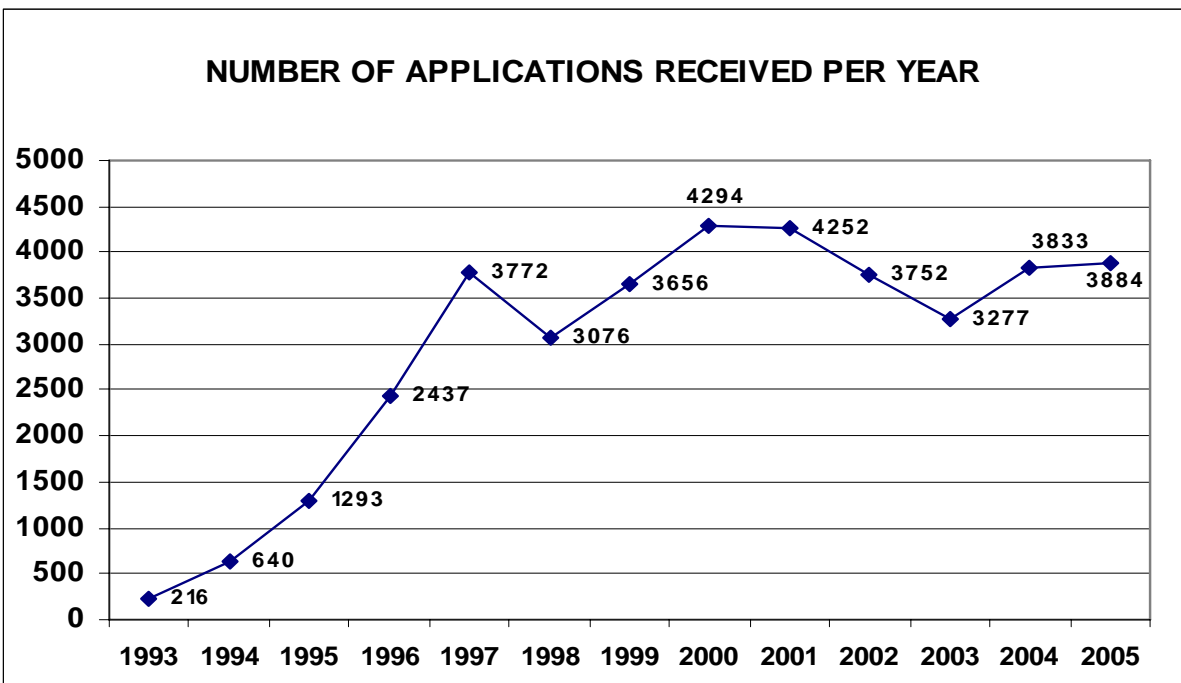
- FWP continued measures to help reduce the number of Department staff on the river. FWP did not conduct any administrative floats during the May 25<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup> period, except for the scheduled River Ranger/enforcement patrols and trips related to noxious weed control.
- FWP continued to recommend that float groups limit their group size to eight people or less and trip duration to no more than four days and three nights in order to help compliance with the Smith River Management Plan standards for maximum number of people in the corridor at one time and average group size per month.
- FWP continued to recommend that floaters leave dogs at home, unless visitors fully intend to comply with the leash regulation. Dogs brought along on recreational floats have become an increasing source of complaints from floaters, as well as landowners along the river. Again in 2005, as in years past, FWP received several complaints (verbal and written) related to dog problems at Camp Baker, the boat camps, and Eden Bridge. Incidents over the years have included dogs getting into food in adjacent camps, dog waste left behind, digging of holes, chasing of livestock and associated trespassing onto private property. Floaters were advised that citations will be issued for all dogs not kept on leash and under control at all times during the 2005 float season.

## **SECTION 4 - VISITOR USE STATISTICS**

### **Private Launch Applications**

A total of 3,884 public launch applications were received for the 2005 float season. This was a 1.2% increase from the 3,833 applications received for the 2004 float season.

The private application forms were made available electronically on the FWP web page during the 2005 application period. The public was able to apply on-line or print the application, fill it out and mail it in. The applications were also made available at all FWP Regional offices. Applications were accepted from Jan. 1, 2005 through Feb. 15, 2005. A trip planning information sheet was provided with the application with answers to frequently asked questions regarding recommended stream flows for floating, camping facilities, and river regulations.



**GRAPH 2: NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER YEAR**

### **First Time Floaters Private Permits**

In 2005, “first time” private permit holders were tracked. The results found that of the 526 private group permit holders that floated the Smith River in 2005, 94 (18%) floated for the first time as a permit holder.

### **Floater Registration**

FWP Commission rules (Smith River Special Use Area Rule) require mandatory registration or reporting for all floaters of the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. This includes initially applying for a private launch date and then completing the registration procedures on the day of departure at Camp Baker.

Because of high demand for floating the Smith River and limitations on the number of launches allowed, a drawing is held for the initial allocation of all private float launch dates. The 2005 season marked the 13<sup>TH</sup> year of this process. In 2005, the number of applications for the drawing increased. 740 private launch permits were allocated via the 2005 drawing. The success rate for obtaining a permit through the lottery was approximately 19%.

All applications received were entered into a computer database. Immediately after the drawing, floaters packets with permits were sent to successful applicants. Refunds were issued to those who were unsuccessful and who elected not to donate their permit application fee to the CEA.

After the initial drawing, remaining launch dates were made available to the public. The computer based reservation system allows FWP to track cancellations and open launch dates, which are then made available via the Smith River reservation phone line. The computer database continues to be refined and serves both the public and FWP very well.

Self-registration by floaters is required in the event river rangers are not present at Camp Baker. The instructions for self-registration and campsite declaration are posted on the kiosk information board located at Camp Baker. Floaters are left to the honor system to fill out the registration/ permit and follow all of the instructions to complete the process. All watercraft utilized by floaters are required to display a boat tag while on the river. Different colored tags were used to distinguish private and outfitted groups.

During the 2005 float season, 53 groups were “no-shows”. Many of these were during the late or early part of the season. In accordance with FWP Commission rules, permit holders failing to properly cancel their reservation will not be able to apply for the 2006 drawing. There were a total of 540 permits that were cancelled. All of these permits were made available for pick-up, with the exception of the first five cancellations during any given week from June 10 to July 10. 93 of the total cancelled permits were combined (consolidating their permits in order to float with another group).

### **Floater Logs**

The floater log is an information card that floaters voluntarily fill out and return at the conclusion of their trip. Floaters were asked to do one of the following with their completed floater log: 1) Give their completed floater log to the FWP volunteers at Eden Bridge. 2) Deposit their logs in the receptacle at Eden Bridge, or 3) Send them to the Great Falls FWP office if no one was present at Eden Bridge to collect them. In addition to general data collection, many personal comments relating to a memorable experience or observations were noted. Of 574 private and outfitted groups that floated, 384 (67%) returned a floater log.

### **Floater Log Comment Summary**

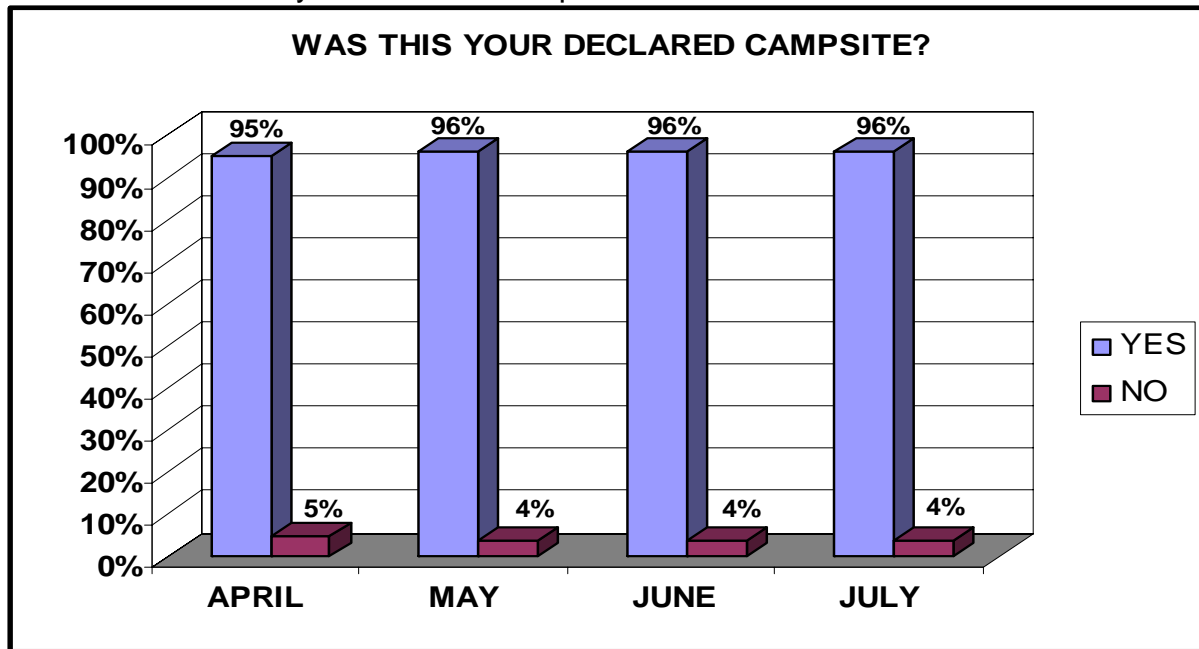
The floater’s log comment card is a great way to get instant feedback from recreational users of the Smith River. A complete list of all the floater log comments is available on the FWP Smith River website [fwp.state.mt.gov](http://fwp.state.mt.gov), or call 406-454-5857 to receive a copy. The comments from the 384 floater logs are summarized on pages 13-21.



## **2005 FLOATER LOG COMMENT SUMMARY**

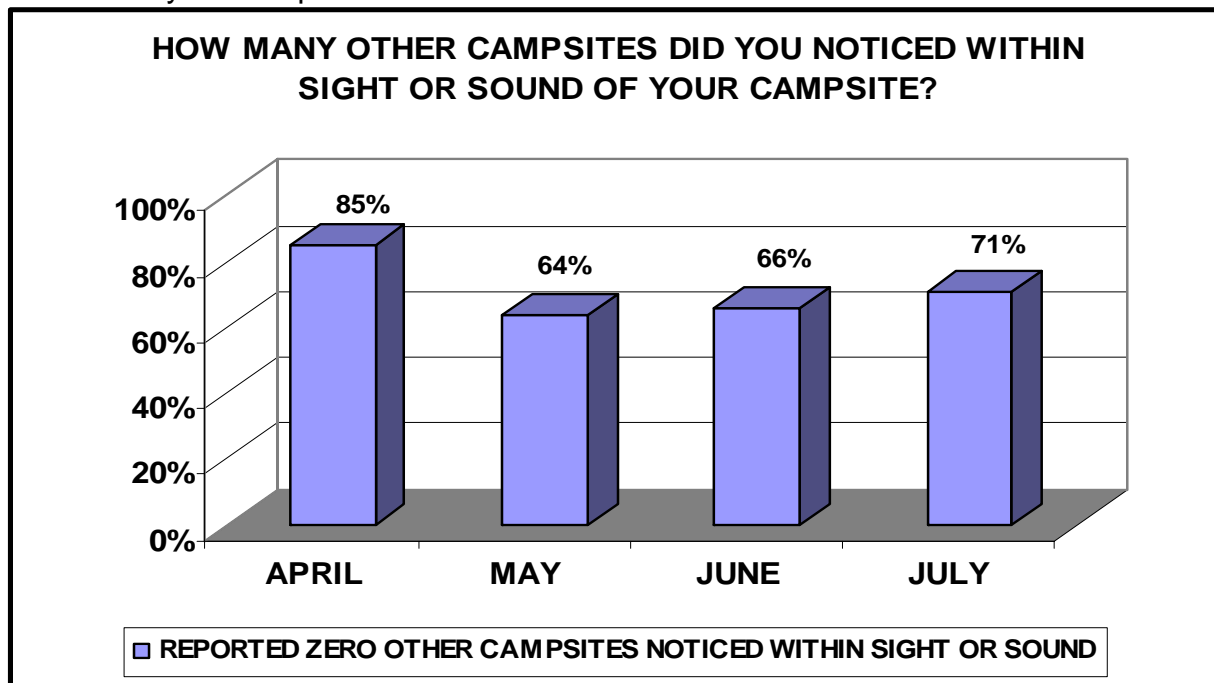
### **CAMPSITE QUESTIONS:**

**Question:** Was this your declared campsite?



**GRAPH 3: FLOATER CAMPSITE DECLARATION**

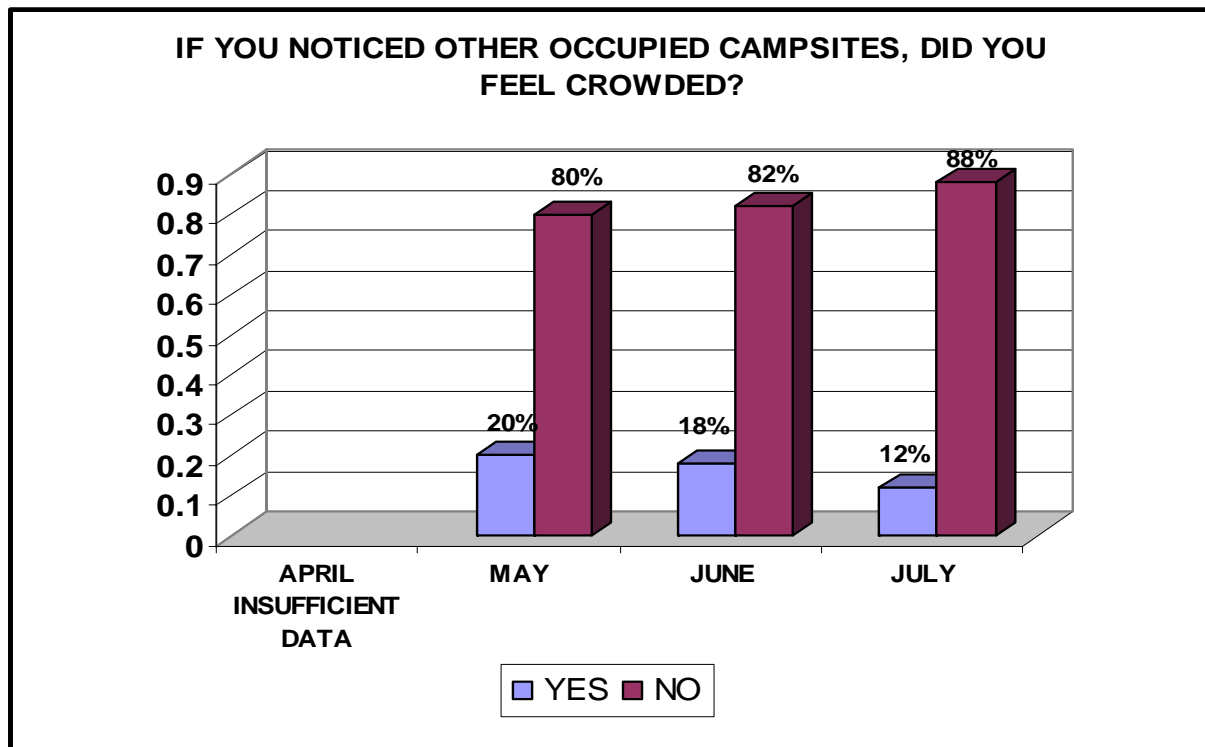
**Question:** How many other occupied campsites did you notice within sight or sound of your campsite?



**GRAPH 4: FLOATER CAMPSITE OBSERVATIONS**



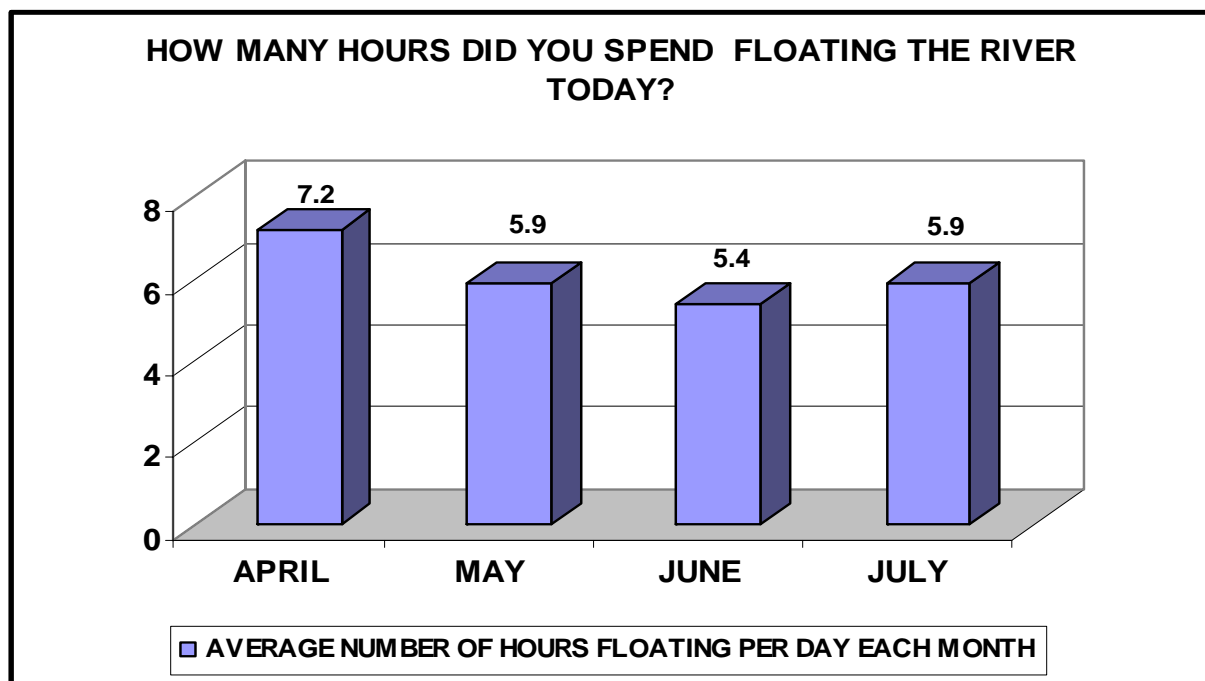
**Question:** If you noticed other campsites did you feel crowded?



**GRAPH 5: FLOATER CAMPSITE PERCEPTION OF CROWDING**

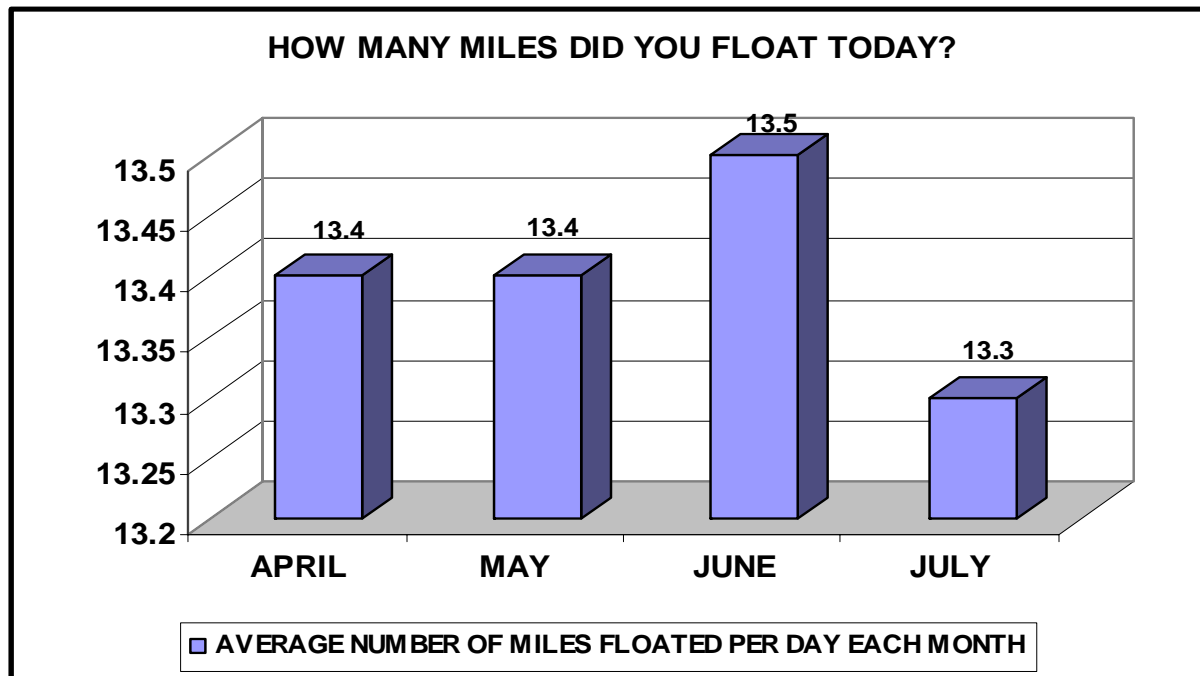
## **FLOATING QUESTIONS**

**Question:** How many **hours** did you spend floating the river today?



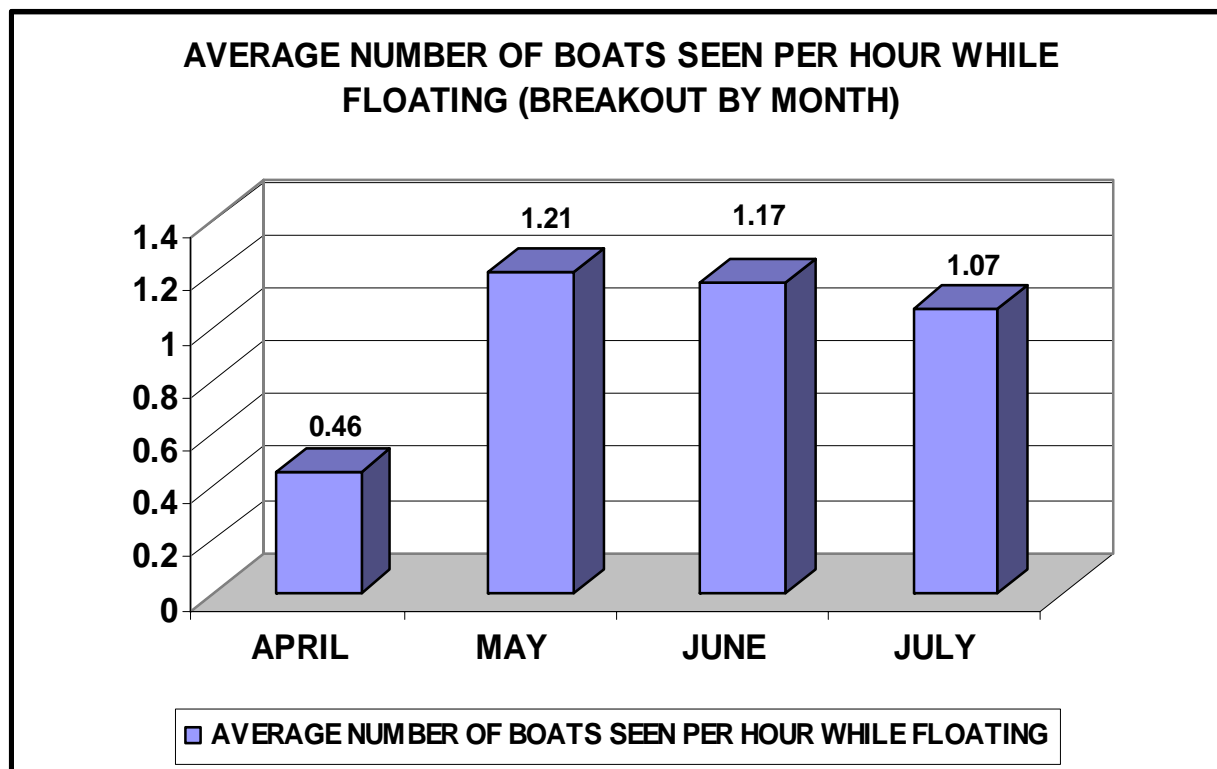
**GRAPH 6: FLOATER HOURS ON THE RIVER PER DAY**

**Question:** How many **miles** did you float today?

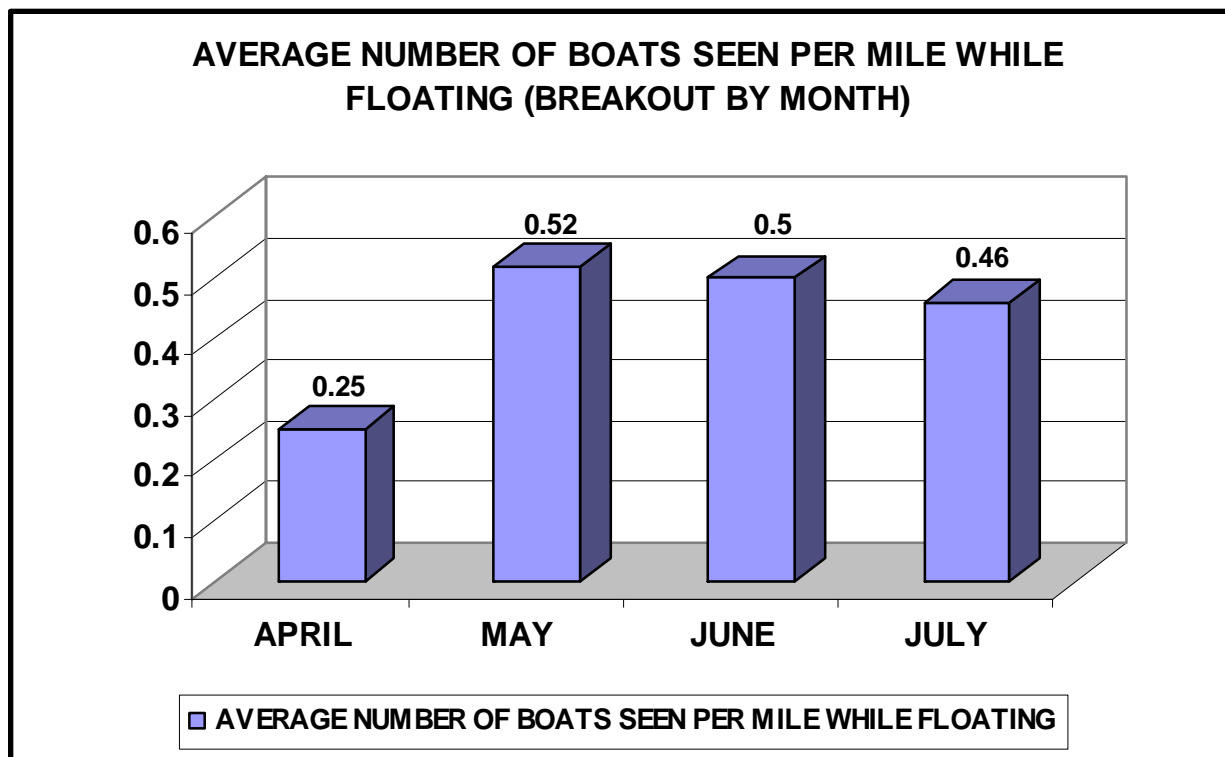


**GRAPH 7: FLOATER DAILY MILES**

**Question:** How many other **boats** did you see while floating the river today (excluding your group)?

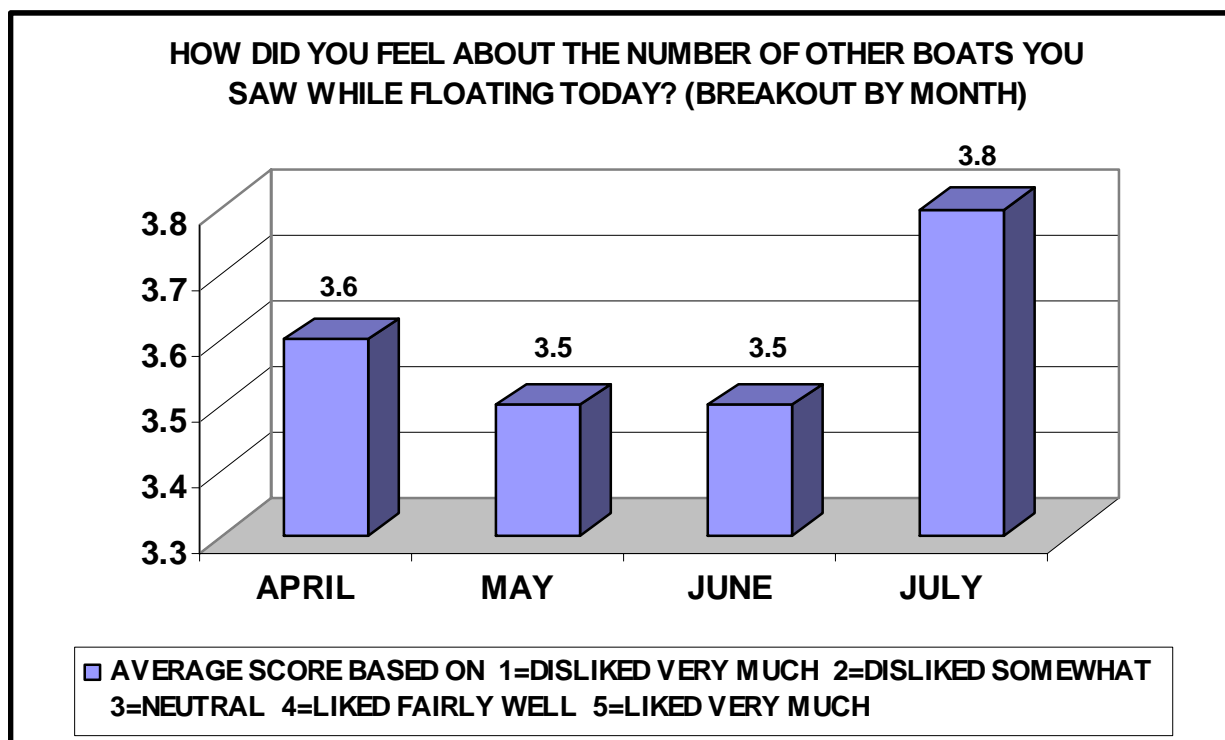


**GRAPH 8: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER HOUR**



**GRAPH 9: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER MILE**

**Question:** How did you **feel** about the number of other boats you saw while floating the river today?



**GRAPH 10: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY**

**Question # 1: If you DID NOT stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?**

**Question # 1 - Content Analysis:**

A total of 48 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2005 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for deviating from declared campsites included:

- Weather-induced changes in itinerary (8)
- Displaced by other parties; double booked campsites (8)
- Disliked campsite conditions, facilities or setting (1)
- Shortened float, floated faster than expected, exited river early (4)
- Confused about name or location of declared campsite (3)
- Late start on river (2)
- Stayed in private cabin or property (3)
- Fatigue and/or Illness (2)
- Undeclared campsite was empty, so it was utilized (5)
- Passed campsite, no reason given (3)
- Accidentally passed campsite (3)
- Boat or equipment problems (3)
- Delayed by excellent fishing (2)
- River too high or too fast (2)

**Question #2: If you fished on your float trip, how would you rate the following aspects of your fishing experience on the Smith River?**

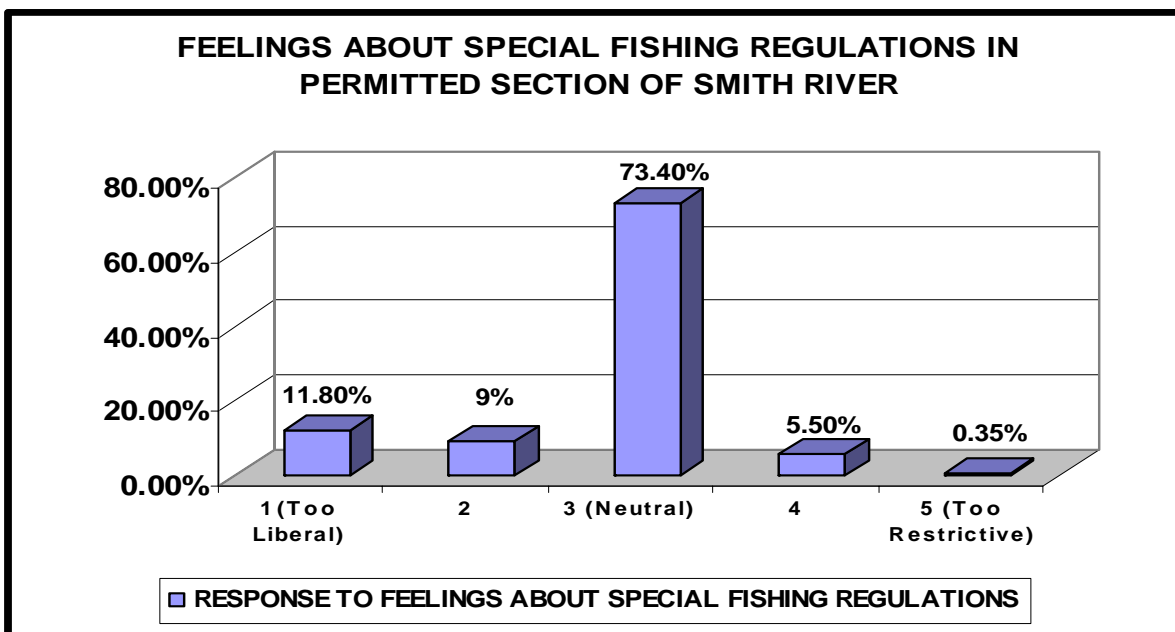
**Question # 2 – Content Analysis:**

Table 1 represents the percentage (%) of floaters rating their satisfaction with the total number of rainbow and brown trout caught as well as, the size of rainbow and brown trout caught. The scale runs from 1 (poor) to 5 (good).

Satisfaction With:	Number of responses	Rating (% of responses)				
		1 poor	2	3	4	5 good
Number of rainbow trout caught	278	37	19	25	11	9
Size of rainbow trout caught	275	32	13	24	19	13
Number of brown trout caught	275	40	17	20	13	9
Size of brown trout caught	277	33	10	16	25	16

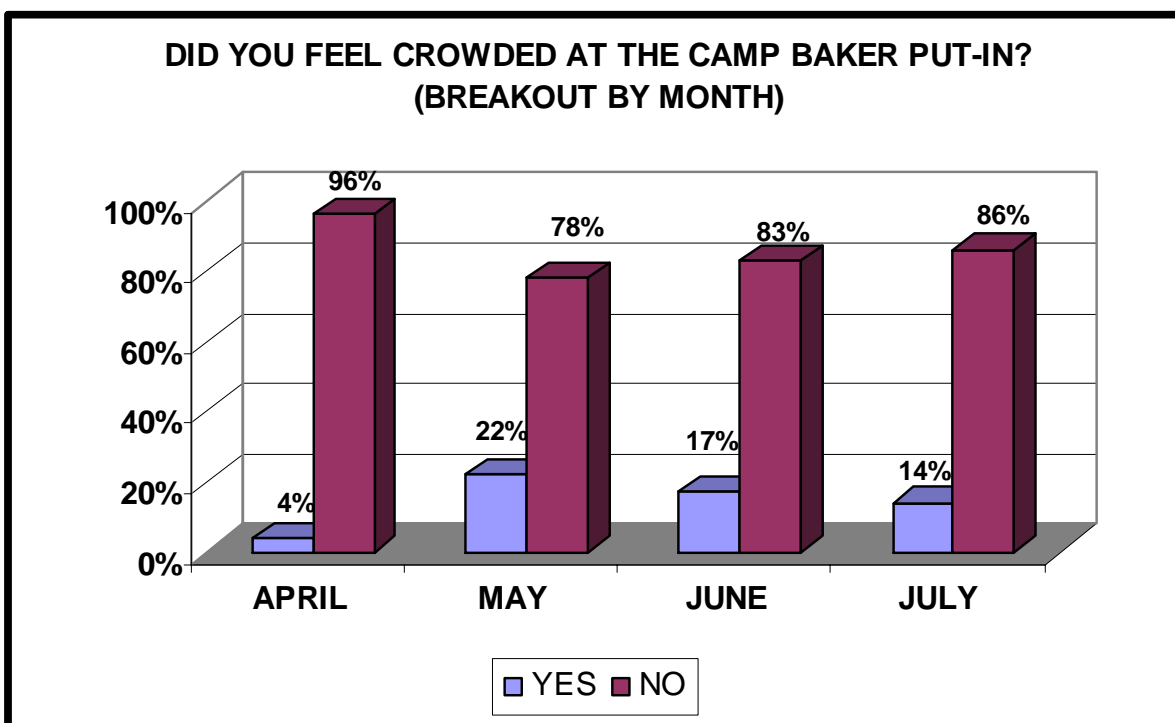
**TABLE 1: SATISFACTION WITH THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF TROUT CAUGHT.**

**Question # 3: How do you feel about the special fishing regulations in the floating section of the Smith River?**



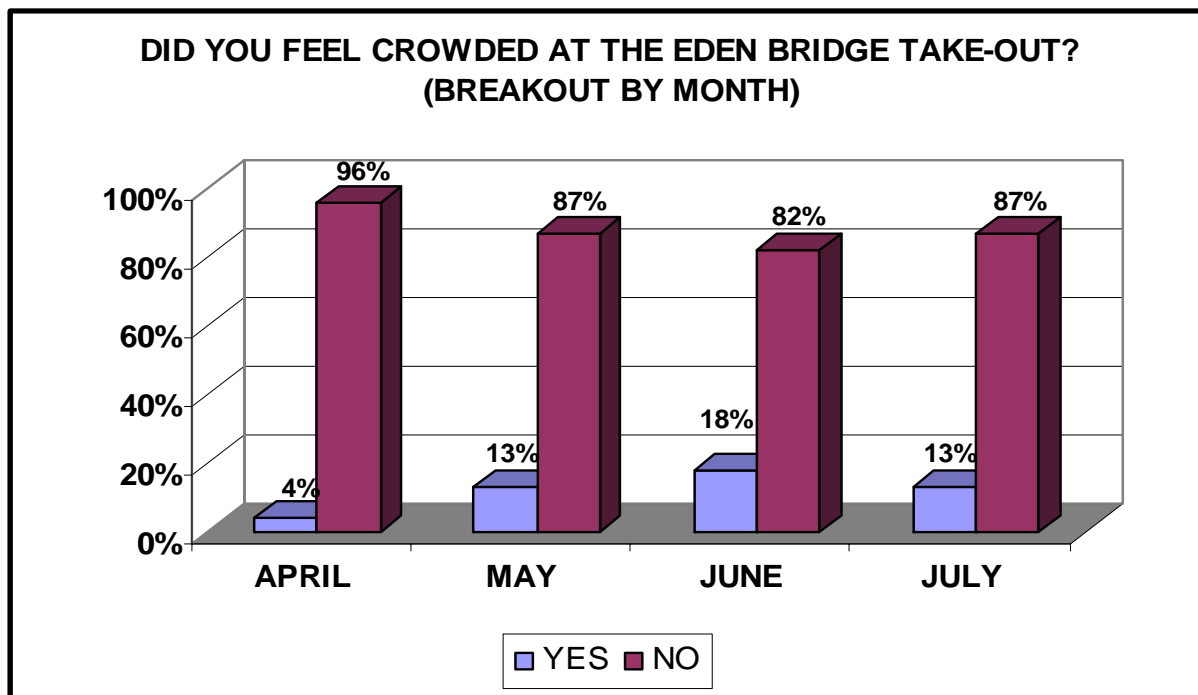
**GRAPH 11: FEELINGS ABOUT SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS IN SMITH RIVER**

**Question #4: Did you feel crowded at the put-in? Yes or No**



**GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT CAMP BAKER PUT-IN**

**Question #5: Did you feel crowded at the take-out? Yes or No**



**GRAPH 13: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT EDEN BRIDGE TAKE-OUT**

**Question # 6: Did you witness any fishing, trespassing or litter violations during your float trip? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag number if possible.**

**Question # 6 - Content Analysis:**

A total of 83 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2005 Floater Logs. Note: Any violations that were documented by floaters in questions 7 (general comments) is also included here. The stated observations of non-compliance are summarized as follows:

- Litter (29)
- Litter/Refuse in fire grate (16)
- Litter/Refuse in toilet (6)
- Litter/Refuse in river (1)
- Dog off leash (3)
- Dog waste (6)
- Dog food left on ground (1)
- Campfire out of designated grates (1)
- Campfire unattended – not dead out (7)
- Improper disposal of human waste (2)
- Vandalism (1)
- Camping in undeclared campsite (2)
- Camping outside of designated campsite (1)
- Fishing violations/creel limits (1)
- Disorderly conduct (4)
- Tree cutting (4)
- Boating violation – under 12 yrs, no life jacket (1)



**Question # 7: Any other comments you have about your Smith River Trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.**

**Question # 7 - Content Analysis:**

A total of 258 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2005 Floater Logs. The content of the comments are analyzed as follows:

**General Response**

- Overall positive and/or satisfied with their river float experience (105)
- Complimentary or positive comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (38)
- Negative comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (1)
- Provided recommendations for changes in FWP management practices (55)
- Positive comments regarding FWP River Rangers or Staff (25)
- Negative comments regarding FWP River Rangers or staff (2)
- Positive comments regarding launch and campsite conditions (16)
- Negative comments regarding launch or campsite conditions (10)
- Comments regarding river conditions and good fishing (2)
- Comments regarding river conditions and poor fishing (14)
- Comments or complaints regarding private property or landowners (7)

**Specific Complaints:**

- Visitor behavior & user conflicts (5)
- Campsite conditions, signing, or facilities (6)
- Guide/Outfitter behavior/attitude (2)
- Livestock impacts in campsites (5)
- Noxious weed infestations (7)
- Dogs off leash (3)
- Dog waste in campsite (4)
- Too many dogs (1)
- Human waste in campsite (2)
- Crowding/too many boats on river (1)
- Crowding in campgrounds (4)
- Group size too large (2)
- Trucks driving past Trout Creek campsite and across river (4)
- Poison ivy infestation at Middle Top Ridge Campsite (1)
- Poison ivy infestation at Upper Givens Gulch (1)
- Fencing/gates across river (6)
- Latrines too close together (3)
- Tree across latrine trail at Syringa (3)
- Trees/snags in river (5)
- Steel firerings are dangerous as well as ugly (1)
- Double booked in campsite (2)
- Latrine full (2)
- Military helicopters (3 passes) was disappointing and loud, unless necessary for rescue (1)

## **Specific Recommendations:**

### ***Permits, Allocation, Fees***

- Allocate campsites during permit drawing, rather than at Camp Baker (2)
- Reduce maximum group size (3)
- Reduce number of launches per day (4)

### ***Administrative Rules***

- Prohibit dogs on river (3)
- Continue to allow dogs on river (4)
- Ban and/or limit alcohol (2)

### ***Education and Outreach***

- Stress importance of staying at designated campsites (1)
- Rangers should inquire about floaters boating experience before making recommendations on whether it's safe to float or not (1)
- Information in floater packet FAQ's instructing floaters to leave "rocket boxes" at home since latrines are located at all campsites (1)

### ***Fishing***

- Implement catch and release fishing only or other fishing restrictions (5)
- Prohibit treble hooks for fishing (1)

### ***Boat Camps***

- Reposition fire grates to be near trees so tarps may be used for cover (1)
- Camps too large (1)
- Require floaters to pack out human waste (3)
- Need more screening around latrines (4)
- Leave latrine lids open to increase decomposition (2)
- Harden campsites to prevent further resource damage (1)
- New location for Scotty Allen latrine – trail too steep (2)
- Reposition Upper Parker and Ridgetop latrines to face river (1)
- Eliminate Lower or Middle Ridgetop campsites – too close together (1)
- Provide firewood at campsites (1)
- Return to use of rock firerings instead of steel fire grates (1)
- Encourage floaters to dump gray water and coffee grounds into latrines to speed decomposition (1)
- Encourage floaters to pack out fire ashes (1)

### ***Facilities***

- Use smaller fire grates (1)
- Sign the trailhead to pictographs (1)

### ***Safety***

- Place a sign at point of island where river splits above Eden Bridge (1)
- Cut tree in river below Scotty Allen (1)

### ***Weeds***

- Encourage floaters to pull noxious weeds (1)
- Sign/warn floaters of recent weed spraying in campsites (1)

### **Landowner Day Floats**

There are approximately 111 private landowners along the Smith River Corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Many of these landowners own small parcels (i.e. cabins or cabin sites) at the Two Creeks (mile 18.5) and Castle Bar (mile 22) subdivisions. The Smith River Special Use Area Rule provides floating opportunities for bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with immediate family members for day floats with few restrictions. Fourteen landowner groups involving 47 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2005 float season.

### **Landowner Non-Immediate Family Day Floats**

In 1998, the Smith River Special Use Area Rule was modified to allow bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with non-immediate family for day floats. Eighteen landowner groups involving 87 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2005 season.

### **Fee-Waived Floats**

The Smith River Special Use Area Rule allows fee-waived floats under certain special criteria. No fee-waived floats took place during the 2005 float season.

### **Private Floats**

During the 2005 float season, a total of 526 private groups floated the Smith River involving a total of 3,197 individual public floaters. The 13-year average of private use is 522 groups with 3,077 people.

### **Commercially Outfitted Floats**

During the 2005 float season, a total of 48-outfitted groups floated the Smith River involving 573 floaters (includes both clients and guides). The 13-year average of outfitted use is 49 groups per year with 558 people. The 11 recognized licensed outfitters are allocated a total of 73 commercial launches. All outfitter launches not used by the outfitters were made available to the public for use.

The following licensed outfitters operated on the Smith River in 2004:

- Big Sky Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Blackfoot River Outfitters (Missoula, MT)
- Blast & Cast Outfitters (Ennis, MT)
- Glacier Wilderness Guides (West Glacier, MT)
- High Plains Drifter (Missoula, MT)
- Montana Flyfishing Connection (Missoula, MT)
- Lewis & Clark Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Paul Roos Outfitters (Helena, MT)
- Montana River Anglers (Whitefish, MT)
- River Resource Outfitters (Missoula, MT)
- Smith River Flyfishing Expeditions (Ennis, MT)

## **Commercial Shuttle Services**

Five commercial shuttle services provided vehicle shuttles between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge for Smith River floaters this float season. At present, these businesses are not required to obtain a commercial use permit from FWP.

## **Boat Camp Ownership and Administration**

FWP and the USFS maintain 27 boat camps containing 52 individual campsites throughout the 59-mile river corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Some boat camps have only one campsite while others have as many as two or three campsites at each boat camp. For example, Rock Creek Boat Camp has only one campsite, whereas Indian Springs Boat Camp has an upper, middle and lower campsite. Boat camps typically include a marked landing area, cleared areas for tents and cooking, and a primitive pit latrine.

FWP recently completed a land trade to obtain ownership of Lower Spring Creek Boat Camp, which was previously leased from a private landowner.

Since 1986, FWP has leased private land for boat camps throughout the Smith River Corridor. Most leases are located along the lower sections of the canyon where there is very little public land; currently 10 of the 52 individual boat camps along the river are leased sites. FWP leases Syringa Boat Camp (mile 15.2) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Staigmiller (mile 44), Upper, Middle and Lower Ridgetop (mile 45), Upper, Middle and Lower Givens Gulch (mile 47.2) and Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Boat Camps (mile 47.4) are all leased from private landowners.

Leasing private lands for boat campsites has provided significant opportunities for the floating public, while compensating private landowners for the use of their land. Of the remaining 42 campsites, 14 sites are on FWP property and 28 are on USFS property.

## **2005 Boat Camp Overnight Use**

A total of 13,631 user nights were recorded on the Smith River in 2005. Most of these user nights were spent in the 27 boat camps, while a handful of floaters spent the night in private cabins. The table on page 24 summarizes 2005 Boat Camp Overnight Use. The data was derived from floater registration data collected at Camp Baker. The table shows the number of groups that stayed at each site during the 2005 season and the ownership of each site.

## 2005 BOAT CAMP GROUP USE

BOAT CAMP	RIVER MILE	LAND OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF GROUPS STAYED AT EACH BOATCAMP	% OF OVERALL USE
UPPER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	5	0.25%
LOWER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	2	0.10%
IN LIEU	5.6	FWP	3	0.15%
UPPER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	1	0.05%
MIDDLE INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	51	2.58%
LOWER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	30	1.52%
UPPER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	59	2.98%
LOWER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	13	0.66%
ROCK CREEK	8.9	HLNF	94	4.75%
UPPER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	35	1.77%
MIDDLE SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	27	1.37%
LOWER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	71	3.59%
SYRINGA	15.2	DNRC	69	3.49%
CANYON DEPTH	16.9	LCNF	75	3.79%
TWO CREEK	17.8	LCNF	25	1.26%
SHEEPWAGON	18.4	LCNF	49	2.48%
UPPER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	64	3.24%
MIDDLE COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	37	1.87%
LOWER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	10	0.51%
UPPER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	50	2.53%
MIDDLE SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	68	3.44%
LOWER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	64	3.24%
COUNTY LINE	25.5	LCNF	12	0.61%
UPPER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	4	0.20%
LOWER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	11	0.56%
UPPER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	36	1.82%
MIDDLE TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	49	2.48%
LOWER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	31	1.57%
CROWSFOOT	32	FWP	73	3.69%
UPPER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	60	3.03%
MIDDLE TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	35	1.77%
LOWER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	10	0.51%
UPPER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	42	2.12%
MIDDLE FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	7	0.35%
LOWER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	28	1.42%
UPPER PARKER FLAT	37.5	LCNF	61	3.09%
PARKER FLAT #1	37.9	FWP	27	1.37%
PARKER FLAT #2	37.9	FWP	9	0.46%
PARKER FLAT #3	37.9	FWP	22	1.11%
PARADISE BEND	39.5	FWP	41	2.07%
STAIGMILLER	44	PRIVATE	28	1.42%
MERGANSER BEND	44.5	FWP	20	1.01%
UPPER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	25	1.26%
LOWER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	7	0.35%
UPPER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	62	3.14%
MIDDLE RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	28	1.42%
LOWER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	68	3.44%
UPPER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	52	2.63%
MIDDLE GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	38	1.92%
LOWER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	69	3.49%
UPPER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	63	3.19%
LOWER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	57	2.88%
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>1977</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### BOATCAMP LAND DISTRIBUTION

# OF SITES	SITES OWNED BY	% OF TOTAL SITES
14	FWP	27%
1	DNRC	2%
9	PRIVATE	17%
28	USFS	54%
<b>52</b>		<b>100%</b>

2005 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH												
MONTH	APRIL	APRIL BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF APRIL USE	APRIL % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	MAY	MAY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF MAY USE	MAY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JUNE	JUNE BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JUNE USE	JUNE % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JULY	JULY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JULY USE	JULY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	387	95.56%	12.11%	1283	90.99%	40.13%	1013	70.84%	31.69%	483	73.85%	15.11%
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	103	7.30%	17.98%	372	26.01%	64.92%	90	13.76%	15.71%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	11	2.72%	29.73%	3	0.21%	8.11%	4	0.28%	10.81%	18	2.75%	48.65%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	11	0.78%	23.40%	24	1.68%	51.06%	12	1.83%	25.53%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	7	1.73%	8.05%	10	0.71%	11.49%	17	1.19%	19.54%	51	7.80%	58.62%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	405	100.00%	10.28%	1410	100.00%	35.78%	1430	100.00%	36.29%	654	100.00%	16.59%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	70	94.59%	13.31%	199	91.71%	37.83%	152	77.95%	28.90%	93		17.68%
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	10	4.61%	20.83%	29	14.87%	60.42%	8	6.84%	16.67%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	2	2.70%	16.67%	2	0.92%	16.67%	3	1.54%	25.00%	4	3.42%	33.33%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.84%	28.57%	7	3.59%	50.00%	3	2.56%	21.43%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	2	2.70%	11.11%	2	0.92%	11.11%	4	2.05%	22.22%	9	7.69%	50.00%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	74	100.00%	11.97%	217	100.00%	35.11%	195	100.00%	31.55%	117	100.00%	18.93%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	1478	96.35%	10.35%	5521	91.33%	38.67%	4728	72.94%	33.11%	2423	75.86%	16.97%
USER DAYS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	496	8.21%	17.34%	1700	26.23%	59.44%	624	19.54%	21.82%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	49	3.19%	31.21%	7	0.12%	4.46%	13	0.20%	8.28%	84	2.63%	53.50%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	11	0.18%	23.40%	24	0.37%	51.06%	12	0.38%	25.53%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	7	0.46%	8.05%	10	0.17%	11.49%	17	0.26%	19.54%	51	1.60%	58.62%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	1534	100.00%	8.80%	6045	100.00%	34.68%	6482	100.00%	37.19%	3194	100.00%	18.33%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	1191	96.91%	10.75%	4581	91.33%	41.35%	3598	100.00%	32.48%	1613	79.07%	14.56%
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	430	8.57%	17.68%	1610	30.87%	66.20%	360	17.65%	14.80%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	38	3.09%	31.40%	5	0.10%	4.13%	8	0.15%	6.61%	67	3.28%	55.37%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	1229	100.00%	9.02%	5016	100.00%	36.80%	5216	100.00%	38.27%	2040	100.00%	14.97%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.82			4.30			4.67			5.02		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED				4.82			4.57			6.93		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	4.45			2.33			3.25			4.67		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	3.79			4.29			4.53			4.88		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	5.53			6.45			6.66			5.19		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED				10.30			12.83			11.25		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	5.50			1.50			1.33			4.50		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED				0.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER				0.00			3.43			4.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMIL	3.50			5.00			4.25			5.67		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.47			6.50			7.33			5.59		
# OF RAFTS	148	76.68%	8.06%	483	72.63%	26.31%	483	75.12%	26.31%	189	59.06%	10.29%
# OF CANOES	30	15.54%	1.63%	94	14.14%	5.12%	55	8.55%	3.00%	52	16.25%	2.83%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	5	2.59%	0.27%	36	5.41%	1.96%	57	8.86%	3.10%	13	4.06%	0.71%
# OF KAYAK	5	2.59%	0.27%	30	4.51%	1.63%	40	6.22%	2.18%	58	18.13%	3.16%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	5	2.59%	0.27%	22	3.31%	1.20%	8	1.24%	0.44%	8	2.50%	0.44%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	193	100.00%	10.51%	665	100.00%	36.22%	643	100.00%	35.02%	320	100.00%	17.43%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	184	95.34%	10.02%	611	91.88%	33.28%	458	71.23%	24.95%	231	72.19%	12.58%
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	44	6.62%	2.40%	164	25.51%	8.93%	41	12.81%	2.23%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	6	3.11%	0.33%	2	0.30%	0.11%	4	0.62%	0.22%	8	2.50%	0.44%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	6	0.90%	0.33%	11	1.71%	0.60%	3	0.94%	0.16%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	3	1.55%	0.16%	2	0.30%	0.11%	6	0.93%	0.33%	37	11.56%	2.02%
TOTAL CRAFT	193	100.00%	10.51%	665	100.00%	36.22%	643	100.00%	35.02%	320	100.00%	17.43%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	2.63			3.07			3.01			2.48		
AVG # OF CRAFT - GUIDED GROUP	0.00			4.40			5.66			5.13		
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	3.00			1.00			1.33			2.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	1.50			1.00			1.50			4.11		
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	2.61			3.06			3.30			2.74		



		2005 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH								YEAR	
MONTH	AUG	AUG BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF AUG USE	AUG % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	SEPT	SEPT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF SEPT USE	SEPT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	OCT	OCT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF OCT USE	OCT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	16	61.54%	0.50%	15	93.75%	0.47%	3197	81.12%
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	30.77%	1.40%	0	0.00%	0.00%	573	14.54%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	6.25%	2.70%	37	0.94%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	47	1.19%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	7.69%	2.30%	0	0.00%	0.00%	87	2.21%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	26	100.00%	0.66%	16	100.00%	0.41%	3941	100.00%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	7	77.78%	1.33%	5	83.33%	0.95%	526	85.11%
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	11.11%	2.08%	0	0.00%	0.00%	48	7.77%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	16.67%	8.33%	12	1.94%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	14	2.27%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	11.11%	5.56%	0	0.00%	0.00%	18	2.91%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	9	100.00%	1.46%	6	100.00%	0.97%	618	100.00%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	4	100.00%	0.03%	66	61.11%	0.46%	58	93.55%	0.41%	14278	81.92%
USER DAYS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	40	37.04%	1.40%	0	0.00%	0.00%	2860	16.41%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	6.45%	2.55%	157	0.90%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	47	0.27%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	1.85%	2.30%	0	0.00%	0.00%	87	0.50%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	4	100.00%	0.02%	108	100.00%	0.62%	62	100.00%	0.36%	17429	100.00%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	2	100.00%	0.02%	51	61.45%	0.46%	42	93.33%	0.38%	11078	81.27%
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	32	38.55%	1.32%	0	0.00%	0.00%	2432	17.84%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	6.67%	2.48%	121	0.89%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	2	100.00%	0.01%	83	100.00%	0.61%	45	100.00%	0.33%	13631	100.00%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	0.00			4.13			3.87			4.47	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	0.00			5.00			0.00			4.99	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			4.00			4.24	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.42	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	0.00			2.29			3.00			6.08	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	0.00			8.00			0.00			11.94	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			1.00			3.08	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			0.00	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.36	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMIL	0.00			2.00			0.00			4.83	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			2.89			2.67			6.38	
# OF RAFTS	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	53.33%	0.44%	1	10.00%	0.05%	1311	71.41%
# OF CANOES	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	26.67%	0.22%	8	80.00%	0.44%	235	12.80%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	13.33%	0.11%	0	0.00%	0.00%	113	6.15%
# OF KAYAK	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	10.00%	0.05%	133	7.24%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	6.67%	0.05%	0	0.00%	0.00%	44	2.40%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	100.00%	0.82%	10	100.00%	0.54%	1836	100.00%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	10	66.67%	0.54%	9	90.00%	0.49%	1494	81.37%
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	26.67%	0.22%	0	0.00%	0.00%	253	13.78%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	10.00%	0.05%	20	1.09%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	20	1.09%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	6.67%	0.05%	0	0.00%	0.00%	49	2.67%
TOTAL CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	100.00%	0.82%	10	100.00%	0.54%	1836	100.00%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	0.00			1.43			1.80			2.84	
AVG # OF CRAFT - GUIDED GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			5.27	
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			1.67	
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			0.00	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			1.43	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			2.72	
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			1.67			1.67			2.97	

## SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS (1993-2005)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	AVERAGE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	3,172	2,689	3,534	3,757	4,149	3,507	3,396	1,878	1,678	2,798	3,065	3,187	3,197	3,077
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	432	459	520	652	622	621	669	602	505	626	452	517	573	558
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	49	32	59	85	48	37	52
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	0	0	0	0	0	4
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	30
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	54
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	3,688	3,207	4,112	4,478	4,823	4,180	4,120	2,596	2,262	3,541	3,714	3,855	3,941	3,732
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	664	481	665	632	689	585	511	340	291	450	450	503	526	522
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	49	45	54	57	54	53	56	49	42	48	37	46	48	49
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	13	13	20	18	16	12	16
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	4	3	11	12	14	8
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	5	9	12	10	18	10
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	738	544	739	711	765	657	584	412	355	530	528	587	618	598
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	12,656	10,925	14,644	15,712	18,334	14,848	14,230	8,096	7,657	12,340	13,673	13,867	14,278	13,174
USER DAYS - GUIDED	1,940	2,325	2,561	3,274	3,080	3,026	3,418	2,984	2,490	3,129	2,205	2,429	2,860	2,748
USER DAYS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	238	228	127	195	377	215	157	220
USER DAYS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	96	0	0	0	0	0	16
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	30
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	54
USER DAYS - TOTAL	14,867	13,444	17,412	19,303	21,599	18,101	17,886	11,450	10,321	15,722	16,367	16,614	17,429	16,193
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	9,540	8,365	10,015	11,749	14,036	11,088	10,968	6,191	5,995	10,141	10,636	10,502	11,078	10,023
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	1,504	1,866	1,991	2,576	2,299	2,358	2,715	2,328	1,960	2,256	1,777	1,796	2,432	2,143
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	165	179	97	178	298	176	121	173
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	0	0	0	0	0	11
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	11,219	10,418	12,168	14,555	16,480	13,613	13,848	8,761	8,052	12,575	12,711	12,474	13,631	12,347
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.31	4.56	4.41	4.46	4.35	4.47	4.43
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.96	4.93	5.00	4.88	4.70	4.99	4.91
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.65	3.97	3.31	4.44	4.48	4.24	4.18
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.30	4.50	4.30	4.34	4.41	4.56	4.44	4.41	4.31	4.42	4.34
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.52	5.77	6.22	6.81	6.34	6.08	6.12
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.29	12.02	13.04	12.22	11.24	11.94	12.13
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.77	2.46	2.95	4.72	3.00	3.08	3.33
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.75
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.67	5.25	4.00	3.82	3.33	3.36	4.24
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.80	5.20	5.11	5.83	6.30	4.83	5.51
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.00	5.90	5.60	6.30	6.30	6.40	7.05	6.30	6.37	6.68	7.03	6.57	6.38	6.30

SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS CONTINUED (1993-2005)														
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	AVERAGE
# OF RAFTS	774	863	1114	1232	1409	1294	1294	882	759	1101	1245	1237	1311	1,117
# OF CANOES	438	353	415	362	433	379	344	224	244	378	276	284	235	336
# OF DRIFT BOATS	100	82	140	132	147	97	74	44	37	63	96	86	113	93
# OF KAYAKS	61	46	105	88	96	141	99	67	56	151	133	157	133	103
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	12	30	24	49	60	8	13	14	24	55	23	56	44	32
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	1343	1374	1798	1835	2145	1919	1824	1231	1120	1748	1773	1820	1836	1,674
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	1156	1173	1548	1579	1845	1604	1490	906	837	1368	1452	1503	1494	1,381
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	187	171	208	256	278	265	308	269	241	293	209	218	253	243
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	28	20	42	45	28	20	30
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	10	6	20	19	20	14
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	12	39	47	52	49	35
AVG # OF CRAFT/PRIVATE GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.66	2.88	3.04	3.23	2.99	2.84	2.94
AVG # OF CRAFT/GUIDED GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.49	5.74	6.10	5.65	4.74	5.27	5.50
AVG # OF CRAFT/ADMIN GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.15	1.54	2.10	2.50	1.75	1.67	1.95
AVG # OF CRAFT/WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.00	2.50	2.00	1.82	1.58	1.43	1.89
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.60	2.40	4.33	3.92	5.20	2.72	3.53
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	1.80	2.50	2.40	2.60	2.80	2.80	3.08	2.99	3.15	3.30	3.36	3.10	2.97	2.83
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL GROUPS	7.00%	8.00%	7.00%	8.00%	7.00%	8.00%	9.59%	11.89%	11.83%	9.06%	7.01%	7.84%	7.77%	8.46%
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL FLOATERS	12.00%	14.00%	13.00%	15.00%	13.00%	15.00%	16.24%	23.19%	22.33%	17.68%	12.17%	13.41%	14.54%	15.50%
HIGH WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	555	656	454	676	3760	1480	564	533	447	1080	938	1650	1650	1,111
LOW WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	102	53	64	64	226	115	75	29	34	63	43	79	100	81

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2005)				
DATE	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
April 1, 2005	160			0.00
April 2, 2005	209			0.00
April 3, 2005	263			0.00
April 4, 2005	239			0.00
April 5, 2005	211			0.00
April 6, 2005	212			0.00
April 7, 2005	261			0.00
April 8, 2005	268			0.00
April 9, 2005	250			0.00
April 10, 2005	207			0.00
April 11, 2005	191	1	5	5.00
April 12, 2005	200	2	8	4.00
April 13, 2005	231	3	19	6.33
April 14, 2005	253	7	45	6.43
April 15, 2005	204	9	61	6.78
April 16, 2005	207	13	81	6.23
April 17, 2005	230	14	82	5.86
April 18, 2005	250	12	77	6.42
April 19, 2005	243	8	60	7.50
April 20, 2005	241	9	51	5.67
April 21, 2005	223	15	78	5.20
April 22, 2005	214	20	106	5.30
April 23, 2005	244	23	115	5.00
April 24, 2005	278	26	128	4.92
April 25, 2005	343	23	111	4.83
April 26, 2005	369	18	91	5.06
April 27, 2005	362	17	96	5.65
April 28, 2005	326	16	92	5.75
April 29, 2005	291	20	101	5.05
April 30, 2005	278	22	120	5.45
May 1, 2005	253	27	141	5.22
May 2, 2005	241	20	105	5.25
May 3, 2005	232	20	99	4.95
May 4, 2005	234	21	100	4.76
May 5, 2005	261	27	151	5.59
May 6, 2005	352	25	149	5.96
May 7, 2005	479	28	163	5.82
May 8, 2005	556	32	182	5.69
May 9, 2005	562	25	137	5.48
May 10, 2005	579	25	135	5.40
May 11, 2005	592	28	160	5.71
May 12, 2005	524	22	145	6.59
May 13, 2005	482	28	181	6.46
May 14, 2005	456	31	195	6.29

## SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2005)

DATE	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
May 15, 2005	476	32	198	6.19
May 16, 2005	542	30	176	5.87
May 17, 2005	659	26	151	5.81
May 18, 2005	646	31	201	6.48
May 19, 2005	673	33	218	6.61
May 20, 2005	713	35	253	7.23
May 21, 2005	857	37	283	7.65
May 22, 2005	825	34	270	7.94
May 23, 2005	818	32	230	7.19
May 24, 2005	751	34	224	6.59
May 25, 2005	675	34	229	6.74
May 26, 2005	617	30	208	6.93
May 27, 2005	542	33	239	7.24
May 28, 2005	474	36	286	7.94
May 29, 2005	440	37	309	8.35
May 30, 2005	420	35	268	7.66
May 31, 2005	405	32	238	7.44
June 1, 2005	461	35	262	7.49
June 2, 2005	757	30	206	6.87
June 3, 2005	1420	26	198	7.62
June 4, 2005	1650	21	176	8.38
June 5, 2005	1470	17	173	10.18
June 6, 2005	1430	12	111	9.25
June 7, 2005	1580	13	119	9.15
June 8, 2005	1430	13	89	6.85
June 9, 2005	1310	20	152	7.60
June 10, 2005	1240	18	139	7.72
June 11, 2005	1,150	25	188	7.52
June 12, 2005	1,130	30	229	7.63
June 13, 2005	1,340	27	227	8.41
June 14, 2005	1,140	30	236	7.87
June 15, 2005	1080	31	244	7.87
June 16, 2005	1020	30	233	7.77
June 17, 2005	994	28	225	8.04
June 18, 2005	985	30	246	8.20
June 19, 2005	915	32	253	7.91
June 20, 2005	819	35	254	7.26
June 21, 2005	741	33	229	6.94
June 22, 2005	688	28	184	6.57
June 23, 2005	659	33	229	6.94
June 24, 2005	605	32	241	7.53
June 25, 2005	552	35	285	8.14
June 26, 2005	532	33	285	8.64
June 27, 2005	620	32	256	8.00

<b>SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2005)</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>CFS</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>
June 28, 2005	660	34	259	7.62
June 29, 2005	616	32	248	7.75
June 30, 2005	624	33	254	7.70
July 1, 2005	595	34	273	8.03
July 2, 2005	553	31	241	7.77
July 3, 2005	523	36	264	7.33
July 4, 2005	476	36	254	7.06
July 5, 2005	438	30	227	7.57
July 6, 2005	402	31	206	6.65
July 7, 2005	379	32	224	7.00
July 8, 2005	376	32	225	7.03
July 9, 2005	366	27	180	6.67
July 10, 2005	400	22	136	6.18
July 11, 2005	382	19	103	5.42
July 12, 2005	351	21	85	4.05
July 13, 2005	308	23	96	4.17
July 14, 2005	304	21	91	4.33
July 15, 2005	275	24	101	4.21
July 16, 2005	261	21	96	4.57
July 17, 2005	272	17	82	4.82
July 18, 2005	273	12	61	5.08
July 19, 2005	255	11	46	4.18
July 20, 2005	231	9	41	4.56
July 21, 2005	208	6	24	4.00
July 22, 2005	200	8	29	3.63
July 23, 2005	205	5	15	3.00
July 24, 2005	209	4	11	2.75
July 25, 2005	198	2	6	3.00
July 26, 2005	198	2	6	3.00
July 27, 2005	198	1	2	2.00
July 28, 2005	191	1	2	2.00
July 29, 2005	179	0	0	0.00
July 30, 2005	177	1	2	2.00
July 31, 2005	171	1	2	2.00
August 1, 2005	164	1	2	2.00
August 2, 2005	169	1	2	2.00
August 3, 2005	172	0	0	0.00
August 4, 2005	156	0	0	0.00
August 5, 2005	140	0	0	0.00
August 6, 2005	132	0	0	0.00
August 7, 2005	124	0	0	0.00
August 8, 2005	122	0	0	0.00
August 9, 2005	130	0	0	0.00
August 10, 2005	125	0	0	0.00



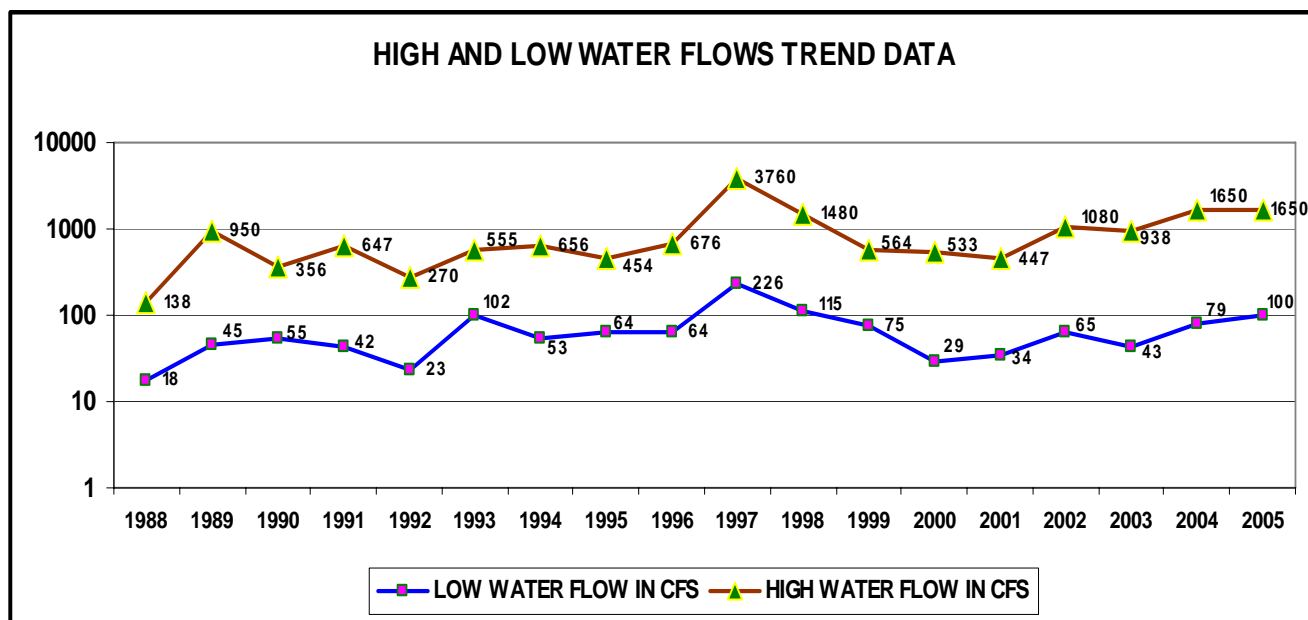
<b>SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2005)</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>CFS</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>
August 11, 2005	126	0	0	0.00
August 12, 2005	122	0	0	0.00
August 13, 2005	125	0	0	0.00
August 14, 2005	126	0	0	0.00
August 15, 2005	125	0	0	0.00
August 16, 2005	119	0	0	0.00
August 17, 2005	116	0	0	0.00
August 18, 2005	129	0	0	0.00
August 19, 2005	126	0	0	0.00
August 20, 2005	120	0	0	0.00
August 21, 2005	118	0	0	0.00
August 22, 2005	115	0	0	0.00
August 23, 2005	113	0	0	0.00
August 24, 2005	121	0	0	0.00
August 25, 2005	122	0	0	0.00
August 26, 2005	122	0	0	0.00
August 27, 2005	115	0	0	0.00
August 28, 2005	108	0	0	0.00
August 29, 2005	104	0	0	0.00
August 30, 2005	100	0	0	0.00
August 31, 2005	114	0	0	0.00
September 1, 2005	117	0	0	0.00
September 2, 2005	112	2	3	1.50
September 3, 2005	106	2	3	1.50
September 4, 2005	106	2	3	1.50
September 5, 2005	105	2	3	1.50
September 6, 2005	106	0	0	0.00
September 7, 2005	106	0	0	0.00
September 8, 2005	110	0	0	0.00
September 9, 2005	112	0	0	0.00
September 10, 2005	107	0	0	0.00
September 11, 2005	108	0	0	0.00
September 12, 2005	112	0	0	0.00
September 13, 2005	117	0	0	0.00
September 14, 2005	120	0	0	0.00
September 15, 2005	120	0	0	0.00
September 16, 2005	119	1	1	1.00
September 17, 2005	126	1	1	1.00
September 18, 2005	138	2	9	4.50
September 19, 2005	137	3	12	4.00
September 20, 2005	129	3	12	4.00
September 21, 2005	123	3	12	4.00
September 22, 2005	127	4	19	4.75
September 23, 2005	128	3	11	3.67
September 24, 2005	154	2	9	4.50

<b>SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2005)</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>CFS</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY</b>
September 25, 2005	171	1	7	7.00
September 26, 2005	154	0	0	0.00
September 27, 2005	140	0	0	0.00
September 28, 2005	134	0	0	0.00
September 29, 2005	130	0	0	0.00
September 30, 2005	129	1	1	1.00
October 1, 2005	123	1	1	1.00
October 2, 2005	131	1	1	1.00
October 3, 2005	140	1	1	1.00
October 4, 2005	141	1	1	1.00
October 5, 2005	139	1	4	4.00
October 6, 2005	141	2	7	3.50
October 7, 2005	139	3	8	2.67
October 8, 2005	137	4	10	2.50
October 9, 2005	149	4	10	2.50
October 10, 2005	150	2	3	1.50
October 11, 2005	145	1	2	2.00
October 12, 2005	144	1	2	2.00
October 13, 2005	141	0	0	0.00
October 14, 2005	139	0	0	0.00
October 15, 2005	138	1	4	4.00
October 16, 2005	136	1	4	4.00
October 17, 2005	133	1	4	4.00
October 18, 2005	130	0	0	0.00
October 19, 2005	132	0	0	0.00
October 20, 2005	134	0	0	0.00
October 21, 2005	134	0	0	0.00
October 22, 2005	133	0	0	0.00
October 23, 2005	134	0	0	0.00
October 24, 2005	134	0	0	0.00
October 25, 2005	133	0	0	0.00
October 26, 2005	132	0	0	0.00
October 27, 2005	130	0	0	0.00
October 28, 2005	133	0	0	0.00
October 29, 2005	140	0	0	0.00
October 30, 2005	138	0	0	0.00
October 31, 2005	128	0	0	0.00

## SECTION 6 – RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### River Flows

The Smith River flows rely heavily on mountain snow pack and rainfall for seasonal floating opportunities. The stream flows are measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at a USGS stream-measuring gauge approximately two miles below Camp Baker. FWP recommends at least 150 cfs for canoes/kayaks, 250 cfs for rafts and 350 cfs for drift boats and large catarafts. Most of the floating that occurred in 2005 started in late April and ended in mid-July. The lowest measured stream flow for the 2005 season was 100 cfs, (August 30), while the peak stream flow was 1650 cfs (June 04).



**GRAPH 14: HISTORICAL RIVER FLOW TRENDS**

The Smith River USGS gauge may be found on the internet at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/uv?06077200>



**LOW WATER AT EDEN BRIDGE TAKE-OUT**

## **Resource Impacts**

Physical resource impacts along the Smith River corridor can impair the ecological integrity of the area as well as the visitor experience. The following physical resource impacts are of particular concern:

- Loss of vegetative cover (bare ground)
- Erosion
- Campfire impacts
- Improper disposal of human waste
- Green tree cutting and damage
- Habituated or food-conditioned wildlife
- Littering
- Dogs off leash (waste, harassing wildlife, etc.)



**EROSION IMPACTS IN SMITH RIVER BOAT CAMP**

## **Noxious Weed Control**

FWP and the USFS work cooperatively to control noxious weeds within the Smith River Corridor. Leafy spurge is the most common noxious weed along the river corridor. Smith River weed control activities continued in 2005 with an emphasis on the established educational and chemical spraying programs. Bio-control (flea beetles) was not conducted in 2005. Educational weed information continues to be displayed at the

declaration board at Camp Baker and is included in the river ranger's pre-launch talks. In addition, two college interns were hired by the Smith River Habit Project, Inc. Based at Camp Baker, their main objective was to enhance the educational efforts about noxious weeds and to ask floaters to identify any new "invaders" not already identified and documented within the corridor.

Late summer of 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor.

In 2005, weed control activities included a USFS and FWP crew conducting a five-day float to spray for leafy spurge and other noxious weeds during the month of July. The goal for chemical spraying along the river is to keep the leafy spurge controlled and from spreading up the mountainsides and leaving the rim of the canyon.

Controlling noxious weeds along the Smith River Corridor is very difficult due to access. The only practical way to reach most areas of publicly owned land for spraying or bio-release is to float. It takes at least 4-5 days to float the river and treat weeds along the way. Each trip is very costly and requires considerable coordination and staffing efforts to complete. Approximately 80% of the property along the river is privately owned with the other 20% being public. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control along a water route especially when there are 111 different private and public landowners with river front property.

### **Management Plan Use Indicators**

The current management plan for the Smith River program was developed in 1995 and adopted in 1996. The plan defines three management indicators, with standards to address social impacts to aid in gauging the quality of the river experience for the recreation user.

- #1 – The indicator is the ***number of groups in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is to have no more than three days per float season with 45 or more groups in the canyon at one time.
- #2 – The indicator is the ***number of floaters in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is no more than six days with more than 300 floaters in the canyon at one time.
- #3 – The indicator is ***average group size*** and the standard is to have no higher average than eight persons per group per month period.

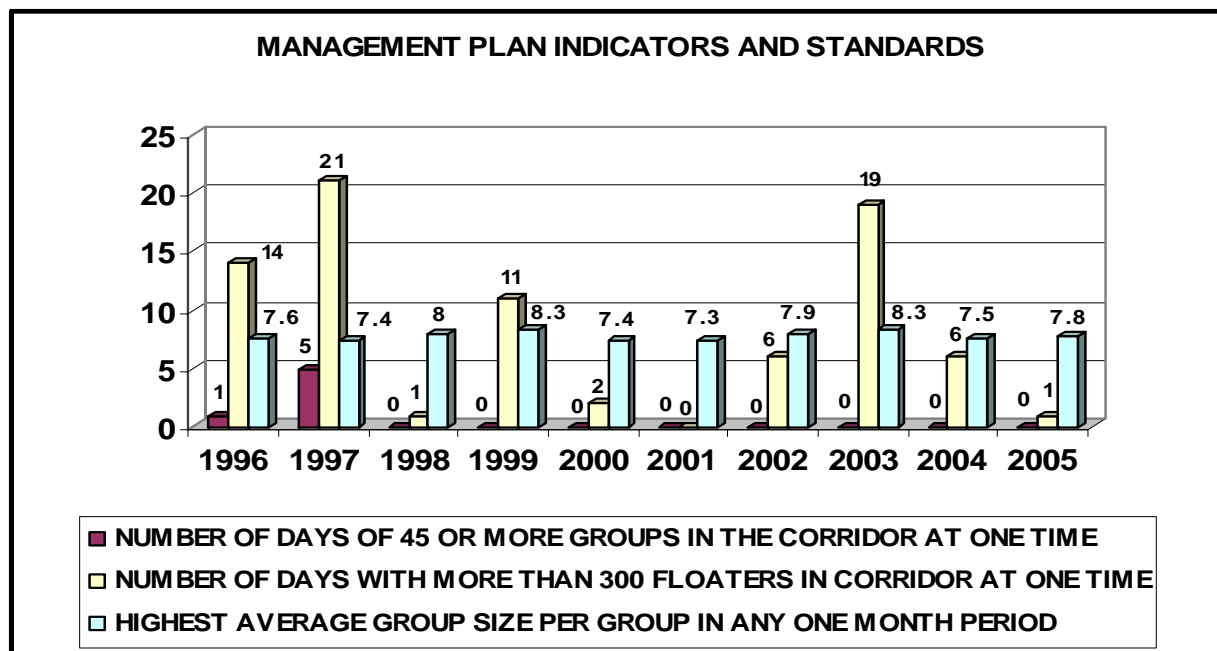
The standards for the established indicators were in compliance during the 2005 float season. The 1996 Smith River Management Plan mandates that when a standard for the indicators is out of compliance, FWP will study the levels and patterns of the river's use further and prepare a recommendation to the FWP Commission.

This recommendation may include reducing the number of launches per day or the maximum group size. Any recommended change would likely affect the number and group size for both private and outfitted groups, while recognizing the historic percentages between these two types of users. The goal has been to get the floater use numbers back within the current standards and indicators.

In 1998, the cancellation procedure was modified due to management plan standards and indicators having been exceeded, requiring FWP to make modifications to the permit system procedures. As a result, the change adopted by the FWP Commission was to not refill the first five canceled permits (private or commercial) each week between June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>. This time period reflected the most popular period to float and the period when the management plan indicators were being exceeded. Outside the high use period of June 10<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>, the cancellation policy remained the same, allowing all canceled permits to be refilled.

In 2003, to help keep overall use numbers within the management plan standards, the maximum group size was limited to 8 people per group for permits that were canceled and reissued from May 25<sup>th</sup> - July 10<sup>th</sup>.

In 2005, the standards for the three indicators were in compliance. There were zero days with 45 or more groups in the corridor at one time. There was only one day (May 29) during which there were more than 300 floaters in the corridor at one time (309). The highest average group size in any given month was 7.8 people.



**GRAPH 14: MANAGEMENT PLAN INDICATORS & STANDARDS (1996-2005 TRENDS)**

## **Compliance**

FWP staff has the authority to enforce recreational use and resource protection regulations throughout the Smith River Corridor.

River Rangers typically take an 'educational approach' to minor violations, seeking the lowest level of enforcement action necessary to gain compliance with established rules and regulations on the river. However, River Rangers have the authority and discretion to issue citations when necessary and appropriate. Enforcement actions range from verbal warnings to written warnings to Notice To Appear (NTA) in Court.

## **Incident Summary**

No serious accidents, injuries, or fatalities occurred on the river corridor in 2005. The following incidents of significance were documented:

### **Incidents investigated and reported by FWP staff:**

- **Assault:** Shots were fired from a rifle on private property, across the river near a group of floaters. Floaters feared serious bodily harm and were very shaken up. FWP Wardens investigated the incident. After consultation with the County Attorney, no charges were filed.
- **Boating Accident:** A canoeist crashed into a rock and punched a hole into his wooden canoe. No injuries reported.
- **Boating Accident:** A canoeist crashed into a rock and punched a hole into his wooden canoe. No injuries report but the trip was terminated.
- **Boating Accident:** A canoeist swamped and wrecked his canoe. No injuries reported. The canoeist completed the float with other party members.
- **Boating Accident:** Two female canoeists (floating tandem) swamped their canoe in high water and were reluctant to continue the trip. They camped out for several nights until a private cabin owner transported them out of the canyon. An Outfitter guide floated their canoe off the river.
- **Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Ridgetop boatcamp. Dog owner had been issued a written warning the previous season thus, a Notice To Appear (NTA) was issued.
- **Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Camp Baker. Dog owner had been given a verbal warning earlier thus, a Notice To Appear (NTA) was issued.



- **Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Boatcamp on river. Complaint received from another group of floaters. Dog owner contacted and a Notice To Appear (NTA) was issued.
- **Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Camp Baker. Dog owner issued a Notice To Appear (NTA).
- **Littering:** Individual threw a cigarette butt into the river as a River Ranger was floating by. A written warning was issued.
- **Missing Person:** Spouse of a floater was concerned that his wife was overdue coming off the river. The wife had decided to spend an extra layover night on the river and was fine.
- **Permit Violation:** Float party exceeded the maximum group size of 15 people. The extra floater joined the party from private property and did not pay floater fees. Incident was investigated by a FWP Warden at Eden Bridge. Floater was required to pay fees and permit holder was issued a written warning for group size violation.
- **Permit Violation:** A group of 4 canoeists (3 adults, 1 juvenile) launched from Camp Baker failing to register and pay the required floater fees. The three adults were issued a Notice To Appear (NTA).
- **Unlawful Campfire/Littering:** Large bonfire/beer party at Eden Bridge, resulting in several broken beer bottles and other litter. Suspects unknown.
- **Unlawful Campfire/Littering:** Late night campfire and associated litter in the parking lot at Eden Bridge. Volunteers on-site did not know it was occurring and found the evidence the following morning. Suspects unknown.
- **Unlawful Camping/Fire:** Group of floaters camping outside of designated boatcamp. Due to the circumstances, a verbal warning was given.

#### **Incidents recorded by floaters onto Floater Logs:**

- **Damaged Equipment:** A hail and windstorm damaged two tents and soaked five sleeping bags at Rattlesnake Boatcamp. Group floated out to Eden Bridge in the dark.
- **Disorderly Conduct:** Intoxicated, belligerent male attempted to prevent floaters from portaging boats around the rapids at Lower Givens Gulch Boatcamp.



- **Disorderly Conduct:** Late night, boisterous party at Givens Gulch Boatcamp. Noise disturbed the group in Rattlesnake Boatcamp.
- **Disorderly Conduct:** Late night, boisterous party at Upper Rattlesnake Boatcamp. Noise disturbed the group in Lower Rattlesnake Boatcamp.
- **Littering:** Numerous recordings of litter found within boatcamps, in firerings and pit latrines.



**SPRING SNOWSTORM AT COW COULEE BOAT CAMP**

## **References**

The following reference materials and documents regarding the Smith River are on file at the Region 4 FWP Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana, and/or available on the FWP (Smith River State Park) website:

- Smith River Management Plan (January 1996)
- Smith River Special Use Area Rule (January 2004)
- Parks Biennial Fee Rule (January 2004)



**VIEW OF SMITH RIVER DOWNSTREAM FROM PARKER FLAT BOATCAMPS**

***“Friendly folks on the river. Good friends, good weather, good food, good times. This is our third year and favorite trip for us, especially the kids – ages 12, 9 and two 6 year olds.”***

**A QUOTE FROM A 2005 FLOATER LOG**